

REMARKS

Claims 12-22 are pending and were examined. Claims 12-22 have been rejected based on non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting. Claims 1-11 have been cancelled in a preliminary amendment. Claims 12-22 remain for further examination. No new matter has been added.

In the Office Action the Examiner rejects Claims 12-18 on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 12, 13, 17, 18, 20, and 21 of U.S. Patent No. 6,783,571 to Ekeroth (hereinafter the '571 reference) in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,949,719 Bellanca et al (hereinafter the Bellanca reference). Claim 19 was rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 12, 13, 17, 18, 20, and 21 of the '571 reference in view of Bellanca, and further in view of Japanese Patent No. JP358106123 (hereinafter the '123 reference). Claims 20 and 22 were rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 6, and 17 of the '571 reference. Claim 21 was rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 6 of the '571 reference in view of the '123 reference.

The Examiner also notes that a timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome this rejection. Although the Applicants disagree with the Examiner's rejections, the Applicants append hereto a Terminal Disclaimer (Form PTO/SB/26) that meets all of the requirements of the Office. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the obviousness-type double patenting rejections of claims 12-22.

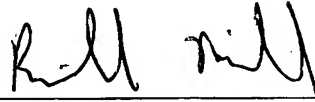
Applicants believe that the foregoing remarks and enclosed terminal disclaimer are fully responsive to the Office Action and that the claims herein are allowable. In view of the foregoing points that distinguish Applicants' invention from those of the prior art and render Applicants' invention non-obvious, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the present application, remove the rejections, and allow the application to issue.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$130.00 to cover the fee required under 1.20(d) for the Terminal Disclaimer filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(c). Applicants believe no further fees are due with the submission of this Response. If any charges are incurred with

respect to this Amendment, they may be charged to Deposit Account No. 503342 maintained by Applicants' attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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